

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

**Proclamation 8329—Wright Brothers Day, 2008**

*December 16, 2008*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Our history is rich with pioneers and innovators who used their God-given talents to improve our Nation and the world. On Wright Brothers Day, we commemorate two brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright, who took great risks and ushered in a new era of travel and discovery.

With intrepid spirits and a passion for innovation, Orville and Wilbur Wright became the first to experience the thrill of manned, powered flight. On December 17, 1903, Orville Wright flew for 12 seconds over the North Carolina sand dunes in the presence of only five people. In the span of one lifetime, our Nation has seen aviation progress from the first tentative takeoff at Kitty Hawk to an age of supersonic flight and space exploration.

On this Wright Brothers Day, we recognize all those who have taken great risks and contributed to our country's legacy of exploration and discovery. This year, we also celebrate the centennial of the world's first passenger flight. By remaining dedicated to extending the frontiers of knowledge, we can ensure that the United States will continue to lead the world in science, innovation, and technology, and build a better future for generations to come.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963, as amended (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 143), has designated December 17 of each year as "Wright Brothers Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America,

do hereby proclaim December 17, 2008, as Wright Brothers Day.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 18, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 19.

**Remarks at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania**

*December 17, 2008*

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thank you for the warm welcome. I'm sorry I'm late. *[Laughter]* But I am honored to be back at the Army War College. A few weeks ago, you celebrated this college's 107th birthday. I was interested to learn that the school was originally located across the street from the White House. Apparently after a few years on Pennsylvania Avenue, it was time to pack up your bags. *[Laughter]* Laura and I know the feeling. *[Laughter]*

General Williams, thank you for your leadership. Sergeant Major Powell, thank you for greeting me.

I'm traveling today with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Peake. I assume he got a seat. *[Laughter]* Peake, how are you—finally, yes! *[Laughter]* He actually was a 1988 graduate of the U.S. Army War College. He claimed he was the president of the class. *[Laughter]* But he also modestly informed me that the reason why is because he was the oldest member of the class. *[Laughter]* Anyway, Mr. Secretary, thanks for your service.

Students, faculty, and staff, it's good to be with you.

Over the past century, this important institution has become one of our Nation's most revered places. It really has been. After all, the graduates of this college are legendary—